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Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-second session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

(Item 3 (b))

Programme 8
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

1. At its 11th meeting, on 11 June 2012, the Committee considered programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6 (Prog. 8)).

2. The Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Overall support was expressed for the programme and the work of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The success of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in May 2011 in Istanbul, was welcomed.

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4. The appointment of the Special Adviser on Africa was welcomed. Questions were raised regarding the impact on the programme of work, given that an Under-Secretary-General had served as the Special Adviser on Africa and the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States under the realignment of the Office of the Special Adviser and the Office of the High Representative.

5. Clarification was sought regarding how the programme would address the challenges of unexpected events and/or multiple crises that could result in the suspension of critical support to the countries. Further information was sought as to how the programme would help to maintain the effectiveness of countries that often experience a combination of crises, such as political and economic crises and natural disasters.

6. The introduction of new indicators of achievement relating to the Istanbul Programme of Action was welcomed. In particular, "Increased number of the least developed countries meeting the criteria for graduation" was well received, as it would indicate the extent to which the least developed countries could overcome their handicaps and achieve sustainable development. Clarification was sought concerning whether the introduction of the words "sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth and sustainable development" in the objective of subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, was in accordance with the objectives stipulated in the Istanbul Programme of Action.

7. Clarification was sought with regard to the coordination of efforts and the possible duplication of work between the small island developing States subprogramme of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and the Small Island Developing States Unit within the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in particular for the implementation of joint programmes and activities such as capacity-building workshops and technical and financial assistance included in the indicators of achievement under subprogramme 3, Small island developing States, as well as for the preparation of the 20-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States envisaged in 2014. Explanation was also sought as to how to increase the visibility of small island developing States.

8. It was observed that more lessons learned could be presented.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed strategic framework.